

to reach the House floor to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

IN HONOR OF EDNA MERLE
WILKINSON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday my friends Patti and JOHN GARAMENDI experienced the loss of Patti's mother, Edna Merle Wilkinson, who passed away at the age of 92.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Edna's rich life, which brought so much happiness to so many people.

Edna lived for many years in my district, graduating from high school in Watsonville. She married John Wilkinson, owner of Granite Construction Company, and helped build that small local company into one of the largest construction firms in the Nation.

Edna offers us many lessons on life, how to live happily and have a positive effect on others. I request that the following tribute to this great woman be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Edna Merle Wilkinson passed away peacefully on May 19th, 2010, after nearly 92 long years of life. Merle was born May 26, 1918 in Marlow, Oklahoma to Mary Alma Wright Twyman and Harvey Hinton Twyman.

Merle was the 5th of their seven children. Her siblings included brothers Louie and Col. Richard Twyman, and sisters Miriam Lister, Evelyn Halward, Erlene Flores, and Alice Flounoy.

Merle lived and attended schools in Watsonville and Alturas, California where her accomplishments and actions are evidence of her compassionate and driven nature. In 1936 she graduated from Watsonville High School where she was awarded the American Legion Award for leadership, courage and academic excellence. She also was elected Student Body Secretary, served as the captain of the field hockey team and competed in ice skating events. After her graduation, Merle attended Business College and was a legal assistant to the Superior Court Judge in Salinas, CA.

Merle found her partner for life at a young age—on June 16, 1940 she married John "Jack" E. Wilkinson, the son of Walter J. Wilkinson, the founder of Granite Construction Company. Together they built the highway and road construction firm into what is today one of the half dozen largest in the country.

Merle and Jack were blessed with three daughters. Susan, Patti and Nancy were all born in Watsonville and attended the same high school their great grandmother Carrie Earle Wilkinson had graduated from in 1894.

Merle, a bright loving mother and wife, was also known for her community involvement. She was active in the Eastern Star and the Johnny Appleseed Auxiliary where she hosted fundraisers for local charities. Her deep involvement with the activities of her children blended with her community spirit and she often spent hours cooking for major events and volunteering in the schools.

From the kitchen to the football field and great outdoors, Merle was also an avid sports fan and athlete. She enjoyed fishing, camping, hiking and could often be found in the rooting section of Cal Berkeley football games when her son-in-law John Garamendi was playing.

After her husband passed away in October of 1969, Merle moved to Stockton to be closer to her daughters. Always one for adventure and challenges, she spent the next several years travelling the world. With a fearless spirit she rode horseback at the Treetops Lodge at Richard Holden's in Kenya, rode camels in Egypt and even elephants in India, keeping wonderful postcard journals for her grandchildren. She visited over 60 countries and was a true pioneer.

Merle's energy and heart of service has never wavered throughout her life. In Stockton she was one of the founders of the Lady Bugs Auxiliary; an organization that supports the developmentally disabled. Having lost her daughter, Nancy, to juvenile diabetes in 1995, she was supportive of the American Diabetes Association and could always be found taking casseroles to families of cancer patients.

While living in Stockton in the latter years of her life, Merle also became involved in local politics, making incredible lunches for volunteers and walking precincts with her grandchildren.

Merle's life is celebrated by her daughter, Patti, and her son-in-law, Congressman John Garamendi, who lovingly cared for her in their home over the past two-and-a-half years. Her 12 grandchildren and her 21 great-grandchildren also celebrate her life. Her work ethic, generosity, spirit of service and adventure, and love for family continues to serve as an inspiration to all who knew her.

The pioneering spirit that her family brought to America over 350 years ago lives on through her legacy.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the House of Representatives, I would like to extend our sincere condolences to my friends Patti and JOHN GARAMENDI, both fellow Peace Corps volunteers, and our sincere thanks to Edna Merle Wilkinson for serving as such a great example to us all.

TRIBUTE TO COL MICHAEL R.
SHOULTS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that Col Michael R. Shoultz will retire from the United States Air Force after 27 years of active duty service. He currently serves as the Chief of the Nuclear Plans, Policy, and Strategy Division of the Air Force.

A native of Bridgeton, Missouri, Col Shoultz earned his Bachelor's degree in Aircraft Maintenance Management from Parks College of St. Louis University. From there, he went on to receive degrees from the Squadron Officer School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Webster University, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the National Defense University, among others.

This extensive education did much to further Col Shoultz' long, diverse, and successful career. In the Air Force, he served as the Air Force operations readiness officer at U.S. Atlantic Command and the commander of the 28th Bomb Squadron and deputy commander for the 7th Operations Group at Dyess Air Force Base. Most recently he served as the vice commander of the 2nd Bomb Wing and the Chief of Staff of Air Combat Command's

8th Air Force. Additionally, as a command pilot he has logged over 3,800 hours in the B-52 and B-1 aircraft.

For his service, Col Shoultz received numerous awards and decorations including the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Madam Speaker, let me take this means to extend my congratulations to Col Shoultz on his well-earned retirement and to wish him, his wife Elaine, and his two sons, Robert and Neil, the very best in the days ahead.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE LATE TROOPER
PATRICK AMBROISE

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life and legacy of the late Trooper Patrick Ambroise, a constituent in the 17th Congressional district I represent. It is with both profound sadness, but also an enduring sense of gratitude for the dedication he provided to Florida Highway Patrol Troop K.

A native Miamian, Trooper Ambroise graduated from Miami Edison Senior High School. He began his career with Florida Highway Patrol in January 2006. At the time of his death he lived in Miramar, Florida with his wife and two daughters, 5 years and 3 months old. Often noted as a dedicated and religious man, Trooper Ambroise was a tenor in a gospel group.

"I want his family to know that he really loved them," said Trooper Ambroise's partner, Trooper Shenaqua Stringer.

As a former Florida Highway Patrolman myself, it is quite clear that Trooper Ambroise demonstrated a passion for law enforcement and commitment to helping others, qualities that enabled him to become a respected and model member throughout Miami-Dade County. Florida Highway Patrol District Commander Captain Sammie Thomas said at a ceremony, "Any time we lose a member of this family, it quite naturally is going to affect us. We take these highways personal. We work every day and put our lives on the line to protect the public, and that's what Patrick did."

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Trooper Patrick Ambroise's extraordinary life and many accomplishments. I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to him before the United States House of Representatives. Trooper Ambroise was an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and appreciation. It is with deep respect and admiration that I commend him for his contributions to his community and the many lives that he touched while serving as a shining example of his legacy.

TRIBUTE TO MABLE VOSHELL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mable Voshell of Osage, Iowa

on the celebration of her 100th birthday which was on February 24th, 2010.

Mable has been an inspiration to all active seniors. Since 1991 Mable has been dancing almost every Saturday night at the VFW in Mason City, Iowa. When she was younger she would go to ballrooms across the Midwest and dance the traditional version of dances like the foxtrot. Her current dance partner, Clyde Martin, has been with her every step of the way since both of their spouses passed away. For Mable's 100th birthday celebration, Mable and Clyde provided a moment not soon to be forgotten at the VFW in Mason City, by dancing the first dance of the night.

There have been many changes that have occurred during the past one hundred years. Since Mable's birth we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and the birth of new democracies. Mable has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-two Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I congratulate Mable Voshell for reaching this milestone of a birthday. I am extremely honored to represent Mable in Congress, and I wish her happiness, health and many more dances in her future years.

HONORING ROY ISOM

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor the life of Roy Isom. Mr. Isom passed away on Thursday, April 15, 2010, at the age of seventy-two.

Mr. Roy Isom was born in 1937. He grew up in Kingsburg, California. Shortly after graduating from high school, Mr. Isom joined the United States Air Force and served in Korea. Upon fulfilling his duties with the military, he returned to Central California and started his career in broadcasting.

After forty years of working for radio and television broadcasts, Mr. Isom has become known as the "voice of agriculture" in the San Joaquin Valley. After working many years in television news, Mr. Isom went to work as the news director and farm news editor for KMJ Radio, a local news talk channel, in 1981. He produced a daily hour-long morning agriculture news show, reporting on the concerns and activities of farming and agribusiness. The daily news segment provided a forum for educating farmers and non-farmers about the important role agriculture plays in the San Joaquin Valley. He was a friend to the Fresno County Farm Bureau and interviewed many of the officers, members and staff. Mr. Isom was a true advocate for farmers and agriculture.

Mr. Isom was a member of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters and was active in the Sanger Masonic Lodge and community. He was regularly recognized for his work. In 1994, he was named "Agricultural Reporter of the Year" by the California Farm

Bureau Federation and in 2005 he received the "Heavy Puller Award" from the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Roy Isom and wishing the best for his family.

CELEBRATING THE DEDICATION OF THE VETERANS FREEDOM FLAG MONUMENT

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I commend to the House the dedication of the Veterans Freedom Flag Monument in Lima, Ohio.

Twenty-five feet high and 36 feet long, this unique, five-panel monument is the largest free-standing American flag in the nation. It pays rich tribute to the more than 43 million veterans who have sacrificed for the many freedoms we enjoy.

The idea for the monument dates back to 2002, with design bids solicited the following year. Ground was broken and construction commenced in 2007, with much of the work performed by volunteers of all ages working regardless of weather conditions.

Appropriately, it sits on land adjacent to Lima's Joint Systems Manufacturing Center, where so many have worked since World War II to provide cutting-edge military equipment to our armed forces. This land was leased in part from the Norfolk Southern Corporation and the General Dynamics Corporation, which operates JSMC for the federal government.

Members of United Auto Workers Local 2075 at JSMC spearheaded construction efforts and worked diligently to raise money for this important project.

Madam Speaker, the UAW will host a dedication ceremony at the monument this Saturday, when it will be formally accepted into the Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District. On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Ohio, I congratulate the monument committee and everyone else who aided in construction and fundraising to make this fitting tribute to our veterans a reality.

HONORING WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN ACADEMY 2010 WE THE PEOPLE NATIONAL FINALS

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, from April 24–26, 2010 more than 1,200 students from across the country visited Washington, D.C. to take part in the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution National Finals. We the People is the most extensive educational program in the country that educates young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is

funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Education for Democracy Act approved by the United States Congress.

I am proud to announce that a class from Westminster Christian Academy represented the state of Missouri at this prestigious national event. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and captured ninth place at the national level.

While in Washington, the students participated in a three-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which students demonstrate their knowledge and skills as they evaluate, take, and defend positions on historical and contemporary constitutional issues. Annual surveys consistently show that high school students who take part in the We the People academic competition outperform national samples of high school students participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress political test by at least 22 percent.

Madam Speaker, the names of these outstanding students from Westminster Christian Academy are:

Molly Anderson, Nick Arnold, Olivia Atkinson, Cheyenne Bartlett, Daniel Chae, Jacob Dahl, Kevin Goldfarb, Jake Grimes, Grace Johnson, Sarah Johnson, Alex Lindstrom, Jimmy Myers, Andrew Nichols, David Rasche, Matt Schwartz, Michael Scott, Ashley Segrave, Emily Sherman, and Curtis Stump.

I also wish to commend the teacher of the class, Ken Boesch, who is responsible for preparing these young constitutional experts for the National Finals. Also worthy of special recognition are Millie Aulbur, the state coordinator, and Sandra Diamond, the district coordinator who are responsible for implementing the We the People program in my district.

I congratulate these young "constitutional experts" on their outstanding achievement at the We the People national finals.

TRIBUTE TO THERESA DATERS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Theresa Daters of Melbourne, Iowa who was recently honored as the city's citizen of the year.

Theresa was honored as Melbourne's 2009 Citizen of the Year at the February 2010 Melbourne City Council meeting. Theresa was nominated for her hard work and dedication to the Melbourne city swimming pool project. She serves on the local Park and Recreational Board and put in many hours to make the pool a reality. With Melbourne being a community of about 800 citizens, it is an immense challenge to keep a community swimming pool in business and up to date. Theresa's efforts and service to her community deserves our acknowledgment and appreciation.

I know my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in congratulating Theresa Daters for receiving the Citizen of the Year Award. I consider it a great honor to represent Theresa in Congress and I wish her the best in her future endeavors.